

**Economic and Social Council**

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For decision

United Nations Children's Fund

Executive Board
Second regular session 2018
12–14 September 2018
Agenda item 4

Draft decision submitted to the Executive Board**Working methods***The Executive Board*

1. *Reaffirms* the rules of procedure of the Executive Board of UNICEF;
2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the joint response prepared by the secretariats of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)/United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), UNICEF, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the World Food Programme (WFP) to the 2018 joint meeting of the Executive Boards segment on working methods;
3. *Requests* the secretariat of the UNICEF Executive Board to circulate draft decisions at least two weeks prior to each session so that the draft decisions are available at the pre-session, and strongly encourages the Bureau to appoint, at that time, the facilitators for the respective draft decisions, in full respect to equitable regional representation, and in this regard strongly encourages Member States to provide their comments on draft decisions, if possible, prior to the start of the session, with a view to starting informal consultations on the draft decisions on the first day of the session;
4. *Also requests* UNICEF and the members of the Executive Board to make efforts to start all meetings, informal briefings and informal consultations on time and ensure that meetings, informal briefings and informal consultations are planned during United Nations working hours and avoid parallel consultations, to better facilitate the effective and constructive participation of all Member States in the work of the Board;
5. *Further requests* that the secretariat of the Executive Board of UNICEF identify a set of common agenda items, together with UNDP, UNFPA, UNOPS, UN-Women and WFP, with a view to harmonizing the consideration of those agenda items with these agencies, beginning from the first regular session of 2019 onwards;
6. *Requests* the secretariat of the Executive Board of UNICEF to develop, in consultation with UNDP, UNFPA, UNOPS and UN-Women, a joint online calendar of

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all Board meetings, to be updated in real time and made available to the Executive Board;

7. *Also requests* UNICEF management to provide a written response to questions raised at informal briefings, upon written request by Member States, before the start of the following formal session;

8. *Further requests* UNICEF to continue to enhance documentation in order to make it more strategic and analytical, and to include best practices, actions being taken to address lessons learned, challenges and risks, building on the interactions with the Board, as appropriate;

9. *Requests* UNICEF to further enhance accessibility and ensure that the file names of Executive Board documents are clearly spelled out and indicate the content of the documents, that these documents can be downloaded in their entirety by agency and that they include full text searchability;

10. *Also requests* UNICEF to engage with the Executive Board and with UNDP, UNFPA, UNOPS, UN-Women and WFP on the efficient and effective implementation of the guidelines for Executive Board field visits and reporting requirements;

11. *Further requests* UNICEF and its Bureau to give due consideration to gender balance in panels for all meetings;

12. *Requests* the Bureau of UNICEF, in collaboration with the Bureaux of UNDP, UNFPA, UNOPS, UN-Women and WFP, to launch a joint consultative process with Member States starting at the first regular session of 2019, with a view to examining the efficiency and quality of its current sessions, as well as the functions of the joint meeting of the Boards, building on the joint response prepared by the secretariats;

13. *Reaffirms* Executive Board decision 2014/1 and recognizes the significant efficiencies created by rationalizing the country programme document approval process and by allowing Member States to place their comments electronically and finalizing the country programme documents at least six weeks ahead of the session, and recommends that UNICEF considers to improve country programme document presentation;

14. *Decides* to eliminate the yearly field visit of the Bureau of the Executive Board of UNICEF, so as to harmonize with the practice of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UN-Women and WFP, and encourages Bureau members to seek to participate in one of the two other field visits that are available for their participation: the Executive Board field visit and the joint field visit of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP.